

## THE CUSTOMHOUSE FRAUDS

Testimony before the Investigating Committee.

Grant's Political Harpies Fattening upon Our Merchants.

\$112,220 a Year Lost Among the Weighers.

The Good Old Man Fills the Department with Useless Men.

SQUARE BRIbery ACKNOWLEDGED

Envelopes Filled with Money Lying Around Loose.

CHARLES KING, THE CHAMPION SMUGGLER.

Mr. Jaynes, the Champion Bribe-Taker.

Hoppes and Merrill, the Champion Harpies.

\$2,200 FOR A DAY'S WORK.

Mr. Levy's Velvet and his Gold-Handled Umbrella.

THE BULLY OF THE HOOK.

A Dog and an Apple Woman on the Pay-Roll.

The following is a portion of the testimony taken before the Committee appointed by Congress to investigate the affairs of the Custom House:

Testimony of Henry C. Lake.

Q.—Are you now connected with the Custom House? A.—I am not in any way; I was up to last Tuesday, from May, 1869; I was appointed under Mr. Grinnell.

Q.—Did you resign? A.—I did not; I was removed.

Q.—For cause? A.—Not that I am aware of. In fact, tell me there was no fault found with my work.

Q.—Do you know any reason why you should have been removed? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you suppose the reason may have been simply to give the place to some one else? A.—Yes; I suppose that was the object.

Q.—What were your duties? A.—The same as any other weigher. Each weigher has a certain district, and it is his duty to weigh all goods on which weight is required coming into that district, and to report the gross weight, the tare, and the net weight.

Q.—Who employ the men under the weigher? A.—It has been usual for the weighers to employ them. The weigher employs his own men, but has to give employment to men who are sent to him.

NOW GRANT'S ADMINISTRATION AFFECTS THE WEIGHERS.

Q.—They have the right to employ them? A.—That, I understand, has been the custom ever since the business started, but under the Administration they have been in the habit of sending men to us, and taking us to employ them.

Q.—From the Collector's office? A.—Yes, sir, from the Collector's office, Surveyor's office, and some times from political offices.

Q.—Do you think your right to employ them to employ such men as are recommended to you by your political friends, and by these organizations? A.—The weighers generally have that right, if he chooses to do so in an extensive article like iron, determine whether he will weigh it with an uprise or down scale, and whether he will take a certain number of pounds, and would amount to a great deal of money in the aggregate, when the tare is \$30,000.

Testimony of Frank D. Curtis.

A.—I am a weigher of District No. 12, plrs 49, and 50, a tenement house, situated on the corner of Nassau and Hoffman street, between Broadway and Hudson street. I am a weigher of the Custom House, and have been approached by a merchant in any large way; when I first came into office, I had a merchant who wanted me to weigh his goods, and I told him I could not do so, as I had not been engaged by any particular firm, and I had no time to do so. I then engaged him, and he gave me a note, and I weighed his goods.

Q.—How many weighers are there, and how many weighers' districts? A.—Eighteen weighers and sixteen districts.

WEIGHT-SEVEN GRANT MEN IN CLOVER.

Q.—On the average, what should you think was the number of useless men employed in each of these divisions or districts? A.—My judgment would be about three in a district, that could be dispensed with if the business was done in a way that made it do it for themselves. These men receive \$10 cents an hour for the time they are employed.

Q.—On the average, what should you say was the amount received per month by these launders? A.—It runs from \$15,000 to \$20,000, which would be an average of about, say, \$20,000 or \$22,000 per month, under all the weighers.

Q.—Whom should you say is paid per year to these extra or unnecessary men?—These men who are not needed to perform the work? A.—I think there is directly odd to these men, that might be dispensed with, from \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year. About \$10,000 per annum, however, is given for the number of weighers in my district; I never had one until the 1st of October of this year. In the month of November, I was urged by Mr. Grinnell to take a clerk; my returns of weight for that month were over fifty thousand pounds. To Mr. Grinnell that I did not want a clerk, as I had a good man, working myself, and I had him do with the exception of about a week, when my son hurt me. I then got a man, and I had him do with the exception of what I wanted to do at that work, so far as I can do it. He was a little vexed, but as he was more than willing to do it, I told him to go on.

Q.—What is the salary of these clerks? A.—Four dollars a week.

Q.—To make up the difference, I think there is a sum of money, which I have not been able to get up to date, I managed to get along without a clerk.

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THE THREE WHO HAS THE BEST CHANCE.

Q.—You never had applied for a clerk, but said you were not successful in getting any? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a matter of fact, that you never had a clerk?

A.—I and no more were times when I wanted a certain amount help, but to employ me that I had, was not a good idea, as I had no time to do up to date, I managed to get along without a clerk.

Q.—What makes you think there is a sum of money, which I have not been able to get up to date, I managed to get along without a clerk?

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THE MAN WHO KEEPS THE TIME COULD CHEAT.

By Senator Patterson.—Have you two or three gages, or two regular gages, composed of the same and the time, which you keep?

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